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Copy 5 of 8

19 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Project Director of Administration

SUBJECT : Security Escort Responsibilities From Foreign Bases to the XI

1. Your informal memorandum of 14 May 1956 suggesting that the courier responsibility involving film be divided, whenever possible, among Agency Project personnel, has prompted me to state the following which are the views of the Security Office concerning this matter.

2. The courier responsibilities involving exposed film, has been delegated to the Security Office as part of our overall security responsibility for Project AQUATONE. We have, accordingly, geared our training program along these lines. It is currently planned to have our personnel prepare full reports on courier assignments so as to enable a refinement of the procedures applicable to this mission wherever possible. Special credentials are being prepared for use of our personnel and these will enable us to utilize the services of other Government Security units for necessary support as required. Further, our Office has developed and has available various contacts who can be called upon to ease the movement of material should difficulty be encountered along the route of travel.

3. It is the opinion of the Security Office that accountability and full and complete escort protection is an activity that cannot be delegated as a convenience. We, as an Office and as an Agency could be severely criticized should a mishap occur while material is not under our direct control. The suggestion to dilute this control is repugnant to our original concept of our responsibility.

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TMA:aml (19 May 1956)

Project Security Officer

1 & 2 - Addressee

3 - Proj Chrg

4 - Proj Reptg

5 & 6 - SO (1717 H)

7 & 8 - SO (I Bldg)